

22 Illinois contractors and the sailors at Great Lakes are building the world's most realistic naval training facility right here in the 10th district. Mixing Hollywood special effects with the USS Cole experience of veteran Command Master Chief Parlier, we toured the "Battle Stations 21" facility yesterday.

The facility has an entire ship under its roof and will help the staff train recruits how to handle traditional challenges like rough seas and new challenges like terrorism. This first-in-the-world facility at Great Lakes will help us to produce the best sailors in the world in time for the 100th anniversary of the Great Lakes Naval Base next year.

Bottom line from Master Chief Parlier: this facility will save lives at sea and build U.S. Navy teamwork.